(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

Chrome Export

2826. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that India accounts for just about 1 per cent of chrome ore reserves in the world but exports 33 per cent of the global trade in chrome ore and concentrates;

(b) whether it is a fact that India has been exporting nearly 1.2 million tonnes of chrome ore and concentrate annually while our output is 3 million tonnes;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that the exports have led to artificial escalation of domestic prices of chrome ore by 70-80 percent; and

(d) if so, the remedial action proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) As per available information, the total resource of chromite in India are roughly 2.5% of global resources. In 2003-04, Indian export of chromite was 0.75 million tonnes against a total annual production of 2.9 million tonnes. The prices of chromite have risen in the last two years but domestic prices are substantially less than the international prices. There is no shortage of supply.

(d) In view of (a) to (c) above, does not arise.

Gold and Diamond Mining

2827. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

The number and locations of the places where gold and diamond mining is carried out in the country, both in public and private sector?